

Tune into Durham's Tune-up for a musical exam break

By ALSTON RUSSELL
Staff Writer

Around now, some students plunge into a full-scale panic about exams. For those who see procrastination as the fine art of surviving spring finals, Spring Tune-up offers a cornucopia of distractions. Dive into a 14-hour music marathon Saturday at Seventh Street restaurant in Durham.

The Spring Tune-up music feast opens at noon and continues until 2 a.m. Eighteen local bands will alternate between two stages, and music styles will range from rock 'n' roll to rhythm and blues to jazz. It all takes place in the new expansion of Seventh Street's music and dance venue, Under the Street.

Bands on the agenda include The Grackles, Naugahyde Chihuahuas, Jo Jo Ex-Mariner, Other Bright Colors, The Pattersons, The Attitudes, The Kee, NRG, Influence, The Flying Pigs, The Bahama All Stars, Dex Romweber and the Rhythm Marauders, Three Hits, Lise Uyanik and the Mobile City Band, 4 Who Dared, Safe House, and Blast Crisis. And yes, of course, Billy Warden and the Floating Children have a definite niche in the lineup.

The festival will encompass distinct sounds from each of the 18 featured bands.

"We play psychedelic hard rock," said Terry McIntyre, lead guitarist for Safe House, in a recent telephone interview. "Our music is kinda spacey, but real high energy — not heavy metal, thank God."

"None of the other bands sound anything like us," McIntyre added. He said that Safe House intends to inject its "own dose of original sound" into the Spring Tune-up.

Safe House's sound is comprised of four guitars, bass, drums, and a female vocalist. The band plans to take the stage at midnight, playing all original material.

Jonathan Mudd of Jo Jo Ex-Mariner said Monday that his group's sound was "some sort of hybrid of guitar power pop, laced with three- and four-part harmonies, intertwined over a thunderous dance groove."

"We plan to add a very visual show," he said. "We plan to make people think it's 2 a.m. instead of

2 p.m." Mudd said Jo Jo Ex-Mariner plays all original songs.

"We play old Motown covers," said Charlie Ebel, lead guitarist of Lise Uyanik and the Mobile City Band. "It's straight-ahead, old-time stuff like Chuck Berry."

"We're sort of a party-type band," Ebel said. He described their band as "mainly a dance band."

The Mobile City Band adds keyboards, a saxophone, and two female backup vocalists to an otherwise basic line-up.

"We're an American guitar band with echoes of Led Zeppelin, early Beatles, and Robert Johnson," said Joe Joworsky of Other Bright Colors. He said that although many people try to "pigeonhole them as an REM band," OBC's music has "more teeth to it."

"It's less jangly," Joworsky said.

"Our sound has become more driving, clear, and direct," he said. OBC plays all originals, with only a lead guitar, a bass, and drums. Other Bright Colors will come into the Tune-up after a week's work with Mitch Easter, music producer and member of Let's Active.

Joworsky said that OBC is looking forward to "sitting back, popping beer, and listening to what they've done with Mitch Easter."

Admission for Tune-up will be \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. The money raised from the festival will help pay for the new expansion of Under the Street. "Durham needs a good club for rock 'n' roll," said Ebel.

"I hope there's a good turnout because it would be a good show of faith in local music," said McIntyre.



Billy Warden and the Floating Children will perform Saturday in Seventh Street restaurant's music marathon

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